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## WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A set of different, but mutually compatible fluid prepaints, sufficient to form at least one paint line, which set comprises:
  - (i) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
  - (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment; and
  - (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder.
2. The set of prepaints of claim 1, wherein the number of prepaints is from 3 to 15.
3. The set of prepaints of claim 1, wherein the opacifying prepaint further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder adsorbed onto the opacifying pigment.
4. The set of prepaints of claim 1, wherein the extender prepaint further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder adsorbed onto the extender pigment.
5. A method of forming at least one paint line, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing a set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints, comprising:
    - (i) at least one opacifying prepaint, comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
    - (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment; and
    - (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder; and
  - (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers or applicator(s) to form the paint line.
6. A method of forming a range of paints, the range comprising at least two paint lines, which method comprises the steps of:
  - (a) providing a set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints sufficient to formulate at least two paint lines, which set comprises:
    - (i) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
    - (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment;
    - (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder; and
    - (iv) at least one additional, different opacifying, extender, or binder prepaint selected from the group consisting of (i), (ii), and (iii); and
  - (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers or applicator(s) to form the range of paints.
7. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of mixing the prepaint before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.
8. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of mixing the prepaint before or while they are dispensed into the applicator(s)

9. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the prepaints before, while, or after they are into the containers.

10. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the dispensed prepaints before or while they are dispensed into the applicator(s).

11. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the paint.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the additive is on aggregate material.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the additive is a thickener.

14. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the prepaints.

15. The method of claim 5, wherein the opacifying prepaint further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder absorbed onto the opacifying pigment.

16. The method of claim 5, wherein the extender prepaint further comprises at least one particulate polymeric binder absorbed onto the extender pigment.

17. The method of claim 5, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

18. The method of claim 5, wherein the method is carried out at a point-of-sale.

19. The method of claim 5, wherein the method is carried out at a point-of-use.

20. The method of claim 5, wherein the method is controlled by a computer.

21. The method of claim 5, wherein the number of prepaints is from 4 to 15.

22. A fluid opacifying prepaint useful for formulating a one pack, pigmented latex paint having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70% and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which prepaint contains other paint ingredients, which prepaint consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one opacifying pigment,
- (ii) at least one dispersant,
- (iii) at least one thickener, and
- (iv) water;

wherein the dispersant(s) and the thickener(s) are mutually compatible with the pigment(s) and with the other paint ingredients.

23. The prepaint of claim 22, wherein the volume solids content is about 35% to about 50% and the Stormer viscosity is about 60 to about 150 KU.

24. A fluid white opacifying prepaint having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about

250 KU, useful for formulating a one pack, pigmented latex paint containing other paint ingredients, which prepaint consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one opacifying pigment,
- (ii) at least one dispersant,
- (iii) at least one thickener,
- (iv) at least one film-forming or non-film-forming polymer, and
- (v) water; wherein the dispersant(s), the thickener(s), and the polymer(s) are compatible with the pigment(s) and with the other paint ingredients and wherein the prepaint is stable to sedimentation.

*27*  
*28.*  
The prepaint of claim 24, wherein the volume solids content is about 35% to about 50%, the PVC is about 50 to about 100%, and the Stormer viscosity is about 60 to about 150 KU.

*29.*  
*30.*  
The prepaint of claim 24, wherein the polymer is adsorbed onto the opacifying pigment. The prepaint of claim 22 or 24, wherein the opacifying pigment is a material selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, lead oxide, a synthetic polymer pigment, and mixtures thereof.

*31.*  
*32.*  
The prepaint of claim 22 or 24, wherein the opacifying pigment is rutile titanium dioxide. The prepaint of claim 21, wherein the synthetic polymer pigment is voided latex polymer particles.

*33.*  
The prepaint of claim 22 or 24, wherein the dispersant is a selected from the group consisting of 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol; dimethylaminoethanol; potassium tripolyphosphate; trisodium polyphosphate; citric acid; polyacrylic acid; diolefin/maleic anhydride adducts; hydrophobically-modified polyacrylic acid, hydrophilically-modified polyacrylic acid, and salts thereof; and mixtures thereof.

*34.*  
The prepaint of claim 22 or 24, wherein the thickener is a selected from the group consisting of an alkali-soluble or alkali-swellable emulsion (ASE), a hydrophobically-modified, alkali-soluble emulsion (HASE), a hydrophobically-modified ethylene oxide-urethane polymer (HEUR), a cellulosic, a hydrophobically-modified cellulosic, a hydrophobically-modified polyacrylamide, a polyvinyl alcohol, a fumed silica, an attapulgite clay, a titanate chelating agent, and mixtures thereof.

*35.*  
The prepaint of claim 24, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic, polyvinyl acetate, styrene-acrylic, styrene-butadiene, vinyl acetate-acrylic, ethylene-vinyl acetate, vinyl acetate-vinyl versatate, vinyl acetate-vinyl maleate, vinyl acetate-vinyl chloride-acrylic, ethylene-vinyl acetate-acrylic polymers and mixtures thereof and wherein the polymer further comprises up to about 10% by weight of the

polymer of a monomer selected from the group consisting of a functional monomer, a co-monomer, and combinations thereof.

~~30~~ 35. The prepaint of claim ~~19~~ or ~~24~~, further consisting essentially of at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, a defoamer, a coalescent, a cosolvent, a mildewcide, a biocide, and an antifreeze agent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the prepaint.

~~31~~ 34. A fluid pigment extender prepaint, useful for formulating a one pack, pigmented latex paint containing other paint ingredients, which prepaint consists essentially of

- (i) at least one mineral extender having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU;
- (ii) at least one thickener,
- (iii) water, and
- (iv) an optional polymeric binder; wherein the prepaint ingredients are compatible with each other and with the ingredients of the paint.

~~32~~ 35. A set of two different, but mutually compatible binder paints useful for formulating a latex paint, which set comprises:

- (a) the opacifying prepaint of claim ~~19~~ or ~~24~~; and
- (b) a latex polymeric binder prepaint having volume solids content of about 25% to about 70% or a Brookfield viscosity of less than about 100,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, which prepaint consists essentially of a water-borne latex polymeric binder having a Tg of about -430°C to about 70°C and water;

wherein the prepaint ingredients are mutually compatible with each other and with the ingredients of the other prepaint in the set.

~~33~~ 36. The set of paints of claim ~~35~~, wherein the binder prepaint has a volume solids content of about 30 to about 65% and a Brookfield viscosity of about 100 to about 50,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, and consists essentially of a water-borne polymeric binder having a Tg of about -10 to about 60°C.

~~34~~ 37. The set of paints of claim ~~35~~, wherein the binder prepaint further consists essentially of at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, a defoamer, a coalescent, a cosolvent, a mildewcide, a biocide, and antifreeze agent, the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the prepaint.

38. A set of three different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints, useful for formulating a latex paint, which set comprises: 38

- (a) the set of prepaints of claim 35 wherein the extender prepaint has a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU; and
- (b) a fluid pigment extender prepaint which consists essentially of:
  - (i) at least one mineral extender,
  - (ii) at least one thickener,
  - (iii) water, and
  - (iv) optionally a polymeric binder.

39. The set of prepaints of claim 38, wherein the extender prepaint has a volume solids content of about 35% to about 65%, a PVC of about 40% to about 100% and a Stormer viscosity of about 60 to about 150 KU.

40. The set of prepaints of claim 38, wherein the extender prepaint further consists essentially of at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an acid, a base, a defoamer, a coalescent, a cosolvent, a mildewcide, a biocide and an antifreeze agent with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 20% by weight, based on the total weight of prepaint.

41. A paint line produced by a process which comprises the steps of:

- a. providing a set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints, which set comprises:
  - (i) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment,
  - (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment, and
  - (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder; and
- b. dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers or applicators to form the paint line.

42. A set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints, sufficient to form at least one paint line useful as an elastomeric coating, which set comprises:

- (i) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
- (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment; and
- (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder having a Tg of less than about 0°C.

43. A method of forming at least one paint line useful as an elastomeric coating, which method comprises the steps of:

(a) providing a set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints, which set comprises:

- (i) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
- (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment; and
- (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymer binder

having a Tg of less than about 0°C; and

(b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers or applicators to form the paint line.

44. A method of forming a range of paints, the range comprising at least two paint lines useful as an elastomeric coating, which method comprises the steps of:

(a) providing a set of prepaints sufficient to formulate at least two paint lines, which set comprises:

- (i) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
- (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment;
- (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder having a Tg of less than about 0°C; and
- (iv) at least one additional different prepaint selected from the group consisting of (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv); and

(b) dispensing a predetermined amount each of the prepaints into containers or applicators to form the range of paints.

45. A set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints sufficient to form at least one paint line useful as a non-cementitious, aggregate finish, which set comprises:

- (i) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
- (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment;
- (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder;

and

- (iv) at least one prepaint comprising an aggregate.

46. A method of forming at least one paint line useful as a non-cementitious, aggregate finish, which method comprises the steps of:

(a) providing a set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid non-cementitious prepaints, which set comprises:

- (i) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
- (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment;
- (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder;

and

44.

(iv) at least one prepaint comprising an aggregate; and

(b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers or applicators to form the paint line.

47. A method of forming a range of paints, the range comprising at least two paint lines useful as a non-cementitious, aggregate finishing coating, which method comprises the steps of:

(a) providing a set of different fluid, but mutually compatible, non-cementitious prepaints sufficient to formulate at least two paint lines, which set comprises

- (i) at least one opacifying prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment;
- (ii) at least one extender prepaint comprising at least one extender pigment,
- (iii) at least one binder prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder,
- (iv) at least one prepaint comprising an aggregate, and
- (v) at least one additional different, prepaint selected from the group consisting of (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv); and

(b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers or applicators to form the range of paints.

48. A set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints sufficient to formulate at least one paint line useful for forming pigmented and clear coatings, which set comprises:

- (i) at least one prepaint comprising at least one opacifying pigment; and
- (ii) at least two prepaints each of which comprises at least one latex polymeric binder.

49. A set of different, but mutually compatible, fluid prepaints sufficient to form at least one paint line useful in graphics art applications, which set comprises:

- (i) at least one prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder having a Tg of about  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$  to about  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;
- (ii) at least one prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder having a Tg of about 50 to about  $140^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; and
- (iii) optionally, at least one prepaint comprising at least one latex polymeric binder having a Tg of about  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  to about  $65^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

50. The set of prepaints of claim 49, which further comprises at least one additional prepaint selected from the group consisting of a prepaint comprising at least one alkali-soluble resin, a prepaint comprising at least one gloss additive, a prepaint comprising at least one wax, and at least one prepaint comprising at least one pigment dispersion.

51. A method of forming at least one paint line, which method comprises the steps of:

(a) providing the set of prepaints of claim 48, 49 or 50; and

(b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the prepaints into containers or applicators to form the paint line.

Added  
B/C